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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,970	04/07/2004	Andrea Bonella	3918AB-1	9550
7278	7590	01/19/2006	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			YAN, REN LUO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/820,970

Applicant(s)

BONELLA, ANDREA

Examiner

Ren L. Yan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-8, 19 and 20 in the reply filed on 11-10-2006 is acknowledged.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-8, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art(AAPA) in view of Baxter et al(2003/0218663).

On the first page of the present specification, AAPA discloses a process for production of image cards as claimed including printing of a sheet so as to obtain a printed sheet with a plurality of images disposed in a plurality of windows, punching of the printed sheet so as to obtain a punched sheet with microperforations along the perimeter of the windows containing the image, and overprinting decorations on the image windows after printing of the images.

However, AAPA does not teach to apply a protective layer on the decorations so as to fix them and avoid removal of material from the decorations as recited. The patent to Baxter et al teaches in a printing process applying a clear UV curable varnish topcoat by spraying to cover the printed image at a topcoat station 54 and then dry the topcoat at a UV curing station 56. See Fig. 4 and paragraph [0069] in Baxter et al for example. It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the printed images of AAPA with a protective varnish layer so as to protect the printed image from mechanical

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damage and to improve color fastness of the printed product. With respect to claims 3, 4 and 19, AAPA teaches on page 1 of the present specification that the overprinting is carried out by hot overprinting with a decorative layer containing pigments of noble metals, such as gold, silver and the like. Accordingly, a decorative layer containing noble metals used for hot overprinting qualifies as a decorative foil as recited. With respect to claims 7 and 8, AAPA discloses printing of writing on the back surface of the punched sheet by means of a photocopier or a printer as recited.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Baxter et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Chess et al(5,895,074).

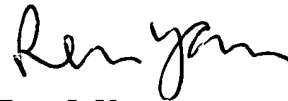
AAPA, as modified by Baxter et al teaches all that is claimed except that it is not clear whether or not the overprinting of decorations takes place before the punching. Chess et al teaches punching a coated sheet with microperforations after it has been overcoated with varnish to create ID cards. See column 2, lines 29-35 in Chess et al for example. It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the printing process of AAPA, as modified by Baxter et al with a punching step after the overprinting step as taught by Chess et al in order to facilitate the separation of the image cards.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L. Yan whose telephone number is 571-272-2173. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan
Jan. 18, 2006